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FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM RECENT [] REPORTS ON ARAB ACTIVITIES:

I. TEL 3461 DATED 24 JANUARY FROM WELL-PLACED SOURCE IN LEBANESE GENERAL STAFF STATES THAT RIAO SOLH HAS ASKED FOR ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN CAIRO ON 5 FEBRUARY.

II. TEL 3466 DATED 21 JANUARY FROM SOURCE PREVIOUSLY RELIABLE: 1. ALTHOUGH CONFIRMED IN APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF ARAB FORCES FOR PALESTINE, ISMAIL HANAN (PASHA) RECENTLY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN SUPPORT HE IS RECEIVING. EXTREMELY ANGRY WITH ARAB LEAGUE AS WHOLE AND WITH LUKEWARM ATTITUDE ITS MEMBER STATES. HE COULD GET NO DEFINITE STATEMENT OF POLICY FROM AZZAM (PASHA) AND SALEH (MADR) HAD IGNORED HIS REQUESTS. ONLY 100 OFFICERS AND NCO'S OF IRAQ ARMY AND POLICE HAD REACHED DAMASCUS BY 8 JANUARY; QUITE INADEQUATE NUMBER. 2. ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE. FEW SENT FROM IRAQ AND EGYPT BUT LATTER HAD FOR SOME REASON BEEN HANDED OVER TO MUFTI'S ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE INSTEAD OF MILITARY COMMITTEE OF LEAGUE. SAWFAT ALSO DISAPPOINTED IN MAJOR GHOLKAR'S INABILITY PURCHASE ARMS SUISSE. OFFICERS VOLUNTEERING IN IRAQ FOR SERVICE IN PALESTINE DEMANDING 60 EGYPTIAN POUNDS PER MONTH ALLOWANCE AND SOLDIERS WANT 15 POUNDS PAY.

INDEX

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PAGE 2

IN 34366

3. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MUFTI AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS INCREASING. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOW APPROVED SAWFAT APPOINTMENT, HE REFUSES RECOGNIZE QAWUQI AS GUERRILLA LEADER. HE INSISTS THAT ALL ARMS CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE HANDLED TO HIGHER COMMITTEE RATHER THAN LEAGUE. SAWFAT REJECTS THIS BUT EGYPT COMPLIES. 4. IN OPPOSITION TO ALL LEAGUE GOVERNMENTS, MUFTI PERSISTS IN DEMAND FOR SETTING UP GOVERNING BODY TO ADMINISTER PALESTINE WITH HIMSELF AS HEAD. HAS SUGGESTED THAT ASSEMBLY OF ALL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES BE CALLED TO ELECT ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNMENTS UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP.

III. TEL-3465 DATED 24 JANUARY FROM HIGHLY-PLACED SYRIAN POLITICIAN: 1. ~~TRUWATI~~ STATES PRIVATELY HE FIRMLY RESOLVED NOT TO COMPROMISE SYRIAN INDEPENDENCE BY SIGNING ANY AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN ON LINES OF NEW IRAQ TREATY. ON 20 JANUARY, AFTER HEARING THERE WERE TO BE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA, HE SENT ~~MUSLIM BARAZI~~, INTERIOR MINISTER, TO VISIT IBN SAUD AND INDUCE HIM REFUSE HIS SIGNATURE TO TREATY WITH BRITAIN, ON GROUNDS THAT ALL ARAB STATES MUST FOLLOW COMMON FOREIGN POLICY. 2. IN MESSAGE TO IBN SAUD HE RECOMMENDED THAT QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN BE REFERRED TO LEAGUE AND NO AGREEMENTS BE REACHED INDEPENDENTLY.

B TB 5 Feb

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